

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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P R 181818Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2140

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

REF: LISBON 1470

1. MDP-SOCIALIST SQUABBLE:

THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) RESPONDED MARCH 17 TO AN ATTACK THE PREVIOUS DAY BY SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN OPORTO (REFTEL). SOARES HAD CLAIMED THAT THE MDP SHOULD NOT ENTER THE GOVERNING COALITION BECAUSE IT IS NOT A REPRESENTATIVE, INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FORCE. IN REFUTING THESE CHARGES, THE MDP REITERATED ITS CLAIM THAT IT IS DEPENDENT ON NO OTHER PARTY (READ THE PCP) AND IS A REPRESENTATIVE FORCE. THE MDP THEN ATTACKED MARIO SOARES, CLAIMING

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SENTATIVE FORCE. THE MDP THEN ATTACKED MARIO SOARES, CLAIMING

THAT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MDP WAS AN "IMPORTANT FACTOR" IN THE DETERIORATION OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE ON THE EVEN OF THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. FURTHERMORE, SOCIALIST DISCRIMINATION AND RESERVE IN REGARD TO THE MDP IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE APPEAL FOR UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES MADE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT. THE PS, ASSERTED THE MDP, MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY ARISING FROM ITS HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE MDP AND FROM ITS FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION WITH RIGHT-WING PARTIES (READ PPD) NOW BLOCKING THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.

2. SANCHES OSORIO REPLACED AS PDC LEADER:

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WHOSE SECRETARY-GENERAL SANCHES OSORIO IS ABSENT IN PARTS UNKNOWN (EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS HE IN FATIMA AND TRYING TO GET OUT OF COUNTRY) DECIDED IN MARCH 12 MEETING TO TURN LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY OVER TO DR. COSTA GIGUEIRA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND TO ITS POLITICAL COMMITTEE. AT SAME TIME PDC DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT.

3. PPD, CDS, AND PDC OFFICES IN VIANA DO CASTELO DESTROYED:

ON MARCH 14, AFTER A PRO-AFM RALLY IN VIANO DO CASTELO SPONSORED BY PCP, MDP, AND FSP, CROWDS ATTACKED AND DESTROYED LOCAL HEADQUARTERS AND DOCUMENTS OF THE PPD, CDS, AND PDC. POLITICAL IDENTIFY OF ATTACKERS, HOWEVER, IS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE PRESS.

4. MRPP CANDIDATE SOUGHT FOR THEFT:

ACTING ON A TIP, POLICE FORCES IN LEIRIA ARE REPORTEDLY SEARCHING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SAID TO BE AN MRPP CANDIDATE FOR LEIRIA WHO ALLEGEDLY TOOK PART SOME MONTHS AGO IN THE ROBBERY/MURDER OF A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN LISBON. THE MRPP, WHEN CONTACTED, SAID THAT THE ACCUSATION AGAINST ITS MEMBER IS PART OF AN ON-GOING "MALCIOUS" CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PARTY.

5. CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM REVITALIZED:

LT. RAMIRO CORREIA, LEADER OF THE ARMED FORCES CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION CAMPAIGN, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 17 TO ANNOUNCE A NEW ARMED FORCES CIVIC ACTION CAMPAIGN. NEW PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IN VISEU WITH 10 MIXED TEAMS OF 15 PERSONS EACH FROM MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY (REPUBLICAN NATIONAL GUARD AND PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE) FORCES. EMPHASIS OF NEW CAMPAIGN WILL BE ON SOLVING SPECIFIC LOCAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACQUAINTING TEAM MEMBERS WITH NATIONAL REALITIES. (LT. CORREIA STATED THAT A REVOLUTION CANNOT BE MADE BY PEOPLE UNFAMILIAR WITH NATION'S PROBLEMS.) CORREIA, A MEMBER OF THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, ALSO STATED THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN PAST HAD OPPOSED CONTINUATION OF CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION CAMPAIGN,BUT THAT PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEY SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.
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